

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-34 (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) A toneable conduit, comprising:

an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube,~~ and located radially inward from and directly under said channel; and

a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube and having sufficient strength to tear through the conduit;

said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

Claims 36-41 (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, wherein the wire is selected from the group consisting of copper-clad steel wire, copper-clad aluminum wire, copper wire, and tin copper wire.

43. (Previously presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, wherein the wire is copper-clad steel wire.

44. (Previously presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, wherein the wire has a diameter of from about 0.32 mm to about 2.59 mm.

45. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, wherein said wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube.

46. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 45, wherein the coating composition is formed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of fluoropolymers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, polypropylene, polyurethanes, polyacetals, polyacrylics, epoxies and silicone polymers.

47. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 46, wherein the coating composition is formed of a polymeric material that has a melting temperature of at least about 500°F.

48. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 47, wherein the coating composition is formed of polytetrafluoroethylene.

49. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, wherein said elongate tube has a predetermined wall thickness.

50. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 49, wherein the exterior surface of the tube is smooth.

51. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride.

52. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 51, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of high density polyethylene.

53. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 35, further comprising at least one additional rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the elongate polymeric tube to facilitate the installation of cable within the conduit.

Claims 54-56 (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) A method of coupling a first toneable conduit with a second toneable conduit, comprising the steps of:

providing a first toneable conduit comprising an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface; a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and directly under said channel; and a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;

providing a second toneable conduit comprising an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface; a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and directly under said channel; and a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;

tearing the wire of the first toneable conduit through the exterior surface of the first toneable conduit;

tearing the wire of the second toneable conduit through the exterior surface of the second toneable conduit;

mechanically connecting the first conduit and second conduit; and

electrically connecting the wire from the first toneable conduit and the wire from the second toneable conduit.

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 57, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the wire in the first toneable conduit and in the second toneable conduit is a copper-clad steel wire.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 57, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the wire in the first toneable conduit and in the second toneable conduit is coated with a coating composition that comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 57, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the elongate polymeric tube of the first toneable conduit and the second toneable conduit is formed of high density polyethylene.

61. (Currently Amended) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and supporting said channel; and
a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube and having sufficient strength to tear through the conduit;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

Claims 62-67 (Canceled)

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

68. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein the wire is selected from the group consisting of copper-clad steel wire, copper-clad aluminum wire, copper wire, and tin copper wire.

69. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein the wire is copper-clad steel wire.

70. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein the wire has a diameter of from about 0.32 mm to about 2.59 mm.

71. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein said wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube.

72. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein the coating composition is formed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of fluoropolymers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, polypropylene, polyurethanes, polyacetals, polyacrylics, epoxies and silicone polymers.

73. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 72, wherein the coating composition is formed of a polymeric material that has a melting temperature of at least about 500°F.

74. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 73, wherein the coating composition is formed of polytetrafluoroethylene.

75. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein said elongate tube has a predetermined wall thickness.

76. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 75, wherein the exterior surface of the tube is smooth.

77. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride.

78. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 77, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of high density polyethylene.

79. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 61, further comprising at least one additional rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the elongate polymeric tube to facilitate the installation of cable within the conduit.

Claims 80-82 (Canceled)

83. (Currently Amended) A method of coupling a first toneable conduit with a second toneable conduit, comprising the steps of:

providing a first toneable conduit comprising an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface; a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and supporting said channel; and a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;

providing a second toneable conduit comprising an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface; a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric~~

tube; and located radially inward from and supporting said channel; and a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;

tearing the wire of the first toneable conduit through the exterior surface of the first toneable conduit;

tearing the wire of the second toneable conduit through the exterior surface of the second toneable conduit;

mechanically connecting the first conduit and second conduit; and

electrically connecting the wire from the first toneable conduit and the wire from the second toneable conduit.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 83, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the wire in the first toneable conduit and in the second toneable conduit is a copper-clad steel wire.

85. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 83, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the wire in the first toneable conduit and in the second toneable conduit is coated with a coating composition that comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

86. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 83, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the elongate polymeric tube of the first toneable conduit and the second toneable conduit is formed of high density polyethylene.

87. (Currently Amended) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and on the same radius as said channel; and

a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube and having sufficient strength to tear through the conduit;

said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

Claims 88-93 (Canceled)

94. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein the wire is selected from the group consisting of copper-clad steel wire, copper-clad aluminum wire, copper wire, and tin copper wire.

95. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein the wire is copper-clad steel wire.

96. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein the wire has a diameter of from about 0.32 mm to about 2.59 mm.

97. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein said wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube.

98. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein the coating composition is formed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of fluoropolymers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, polypropylene, polyurethanes, polyacetals, polyacrylics, epoxies and silicone polymers.

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

99. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 98, wherein the coating composition is formed of a polymeric material that has a melting temperature of at least about 500°F.

100. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 99, wherein the coating composition is formed of polytetrafluoroethylene.

101. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein said elongate tube has a predetermined wall thickness.

102. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 101, wherein the exterior surface of the tube is smooth.

103. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polyvinyl chloride.

104. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 103, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of high density polyethylene.

105. (Previously Presented) The toneable conduit according to Claim 87, further comprising at least one additional rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the elongate polymeric tube to facilitate the installation of cable within the conduit.

Claims 106-108 (Canceled)

109. (Currently Amended) A method of coupling a first toneable conduit with a second toneable conduit, comprising the steps of:

providing a first toneable conduit comprising an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface; a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and on the same radius as said channel; and a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;

providing a second toneable conduit comprising an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface; a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube, ~~integral with the elongate polymeric tube~~, and located radially inward from and on the same radius as said channel; and a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;

tearing the wire of the first toneable conduit through the exterior surface of the first toneable conduit;

tearing the wire of the second toneable conduit through the exterior surface of the second toneable conduit;

mechanically connecting the first conduit and second conduit; and

electrically connecting the wire from the first toneable conduit and the wire from the second toneable conduit.

110. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 109, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the wire in the first toneable conduit and in the second toneable conduit is a copper-clad steel wire.

111. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 109, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the wire in the first toneable conduit and in the second toneable conduit is coated with a coating composition that comprises polytetrafluoroethylene.

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

112. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 109, said providing steps comprising providing a first toneable conduit and a second toneable conduit wherein the elongate polymeric tube of the first toneable conduit and the second toneable conduit is formed of high density polyethylene.

113. (New) The toneable conduit according to claim 35, wherein the stabilizing rib is integral with the elongate polymeric tube.

114. (New) The toneable conduit according to claim 61, wherein the stabilizing rib is integral with the elongate polymeric tube.

115. (New) The toneable conduit according to claim 87, wherein the stabilizing rib is integral with the elongate polymeric tube.

116. (New) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube and located radially inward from and directly under said channel; and
a continuous copper-clad steel wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

117. (New) The toneable conduit according to Claim 116, wherein the wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube.

118. (New) The toneable conduit according to Claim 116, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of high density polyethylene.

119. (New) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube and located radially inward from and directly under said channel; and
a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube that is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

120. (New) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube and located radially inward from and supporting said channel; and
a continuous copper-clad steel wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

121. (New) The toneable conduit according to Claim 120, wherein the wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube.

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

122. (New) The toneable conduit according to Claim 120, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of high density polyethylene.

123. (New) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube and located radially inward from and supporting said channel; and
a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube that is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

124. (New) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube and located radially inward from and on the same radius as said channel; and
a continuous copper-clad steel wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.

125. (New) The toneable conduit according to Claim 124, wherein the wire is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube.

Appl. No.: 09/989,289
Amdt. dated 07/12/2006
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2006

126. (New) The toneable conduit according to Claim 124, wherein said elongate polymeric tube is formed of high density polyethylene.

127. (New) A toneable conduit, comprising:
an elongate polymeric tube having a wall with an interior surface and an exterior surface, a channel extending longitudinally within the wall of the elongate polymeric tube; and a stabilizing rib extending longitudinally along the interior surface of the wall of the elongate polymeric tube and located radially inward from and on the same radius as said channel; and
a continuous wire coincident with the channel in the elongate polymeric tube that is coated with a coating composition that prevents the wire from adhering to the polymer melt used to form the polymeric tube;
said wire capable of transmitting a toning signal to allow the conduit to be detected by toning equipment.